

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 12-25 are pending in this application.

Claims 12 and 16 have been amended.

Claims 21 through 25 are new claims.

REGARDING THE SECTION 102 REJECTION

Claims 16, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) for being anticipated by Tayebati (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,192).

As a result of a short telephonic interview/discussion with Examiner Pritchett on April 29, 2004, Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Tayebati does not teach or anticipate “a support layer formed over a portion of the sidewalls to support the second layers against movement.” Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Tayebati requires that the layers therein have gaps between them and further requires that there be unsupported edges on the layers such that a cantilever technique is used to allow the layers to move with respect to each other. (Tayebati at column 2, lines 30 through 40, and column 6, lines 19 through 58). Applicant is also in agreement with the Examiner that Tayebati does not teach or anticipate “a support layer about a portion of the edges for supporting the structured layers such that the structure layers remain stationary.”

Claim 12 has been amended to recite, among other things, “a support layer formed over a portion of the side walls to support the second layers against movement.” Furthermore, Claim 16 has been amended to recite “a support layer about a portion of the edges for supporting the structure layers such that the structure layers remain stationary.” Applicant respectfully submits that Tayebati does not teach or anticipate Claims 12 or 16, but rather teaches away from supporting “layers against movement” and away from “supporting

the structure layers such that the structure layers remain stationery.” Applicant respectfully requests that this Section 102 rejection for Claims 12 and 16 be withdrawn and submits that these claims are ready for allowance.

Claims 17 and 20 are each directly dependent upon Claim 16 and are therefore not anticipated for, at least, the same reasons stated above with respect to Claim 16. Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection be withdrawn for these claims and submits that Claims 17 and 20 are ready for allowance.

REGARDING THE SECTION 103 REJECTION

Claims 13 through 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being rendered obvious by Tayebati in view of Baillargeon.

As discussed above, Tayebati does not teach, allude to, anticipate or render obvious “a support layer formed over a portion of the sidewalls to support the second layers against movement” or “a support layer about a portion of the edges for supporting the structure layers such that the structural layers remain stationery.” Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Baillargeon does not remedy the deficiencies of the Tayebati reference. In particular, Baillargeon does not teach or render obvious gaps between layers that would require a need for a support layer to support against movement and to keep the layers stationery with respect to each other. In other words, there is no mention or discussion in Baillargeon about a support layer because there are no gaps or air gaps that require support in Baillargeon (Baillargeon at Figure 1 and column 4 line 61 through column 5 line 22). As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn with respect to Claims 13 through 15, 18 and 19 and respectfully submits that these claims are ready for allowance.

REGARDING THE NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 21 through 25 have been added to claim additional novel and useful aspects of the invention that are believed to be patentable over the cited art. In particular, Claim 21 recites that “the support layer holds said second layers substantially parallel to each other.”

New Claim 22 recites that “the support layer partially overlaps a top side of a top layer of said one or more second layers.”

New Claim 23 is dependent upon Claim 16 and recites that “the support layer further holds said plurality of structure layers substantially parallel to each other.”

New Claim 24 is dependent upon Claim 16 and recites that “the support layer partially overlaps the top side of a top structure layer.”

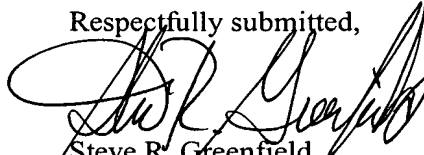
New Claim 25 is an independent claim reciting, among other things, a plurality of structure layers that are “substantially parallel to each other.”

New Claim 26 is an independent claim that recites, among other things, a support layer being about a portion of the edges and “overlapping a top portion of a top structure layer.”

Applicant respectfully submits that based on the discussion with the Examiner in the telephonic interview/discussion that these new claims are novel, useful, and ready for allowance.

In view of the above, it is believed that Applicant has been fully responsive to the Restriction Requirement and this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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